

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
NEA-10 AF-10 DODE-00 /085 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 307658

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:NATO, PARM, XO, IN

SUBJECT: BRIEFING NAC ON INDIAN OCEAN

REF: STATE 307248

1. IN BRIEFING NAC ON THE RECENT US-SOVIET MEETING ON
INDIAN OCEAN ARMS CONTROL IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTTEL, YOU
SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THIRD ROUND OF INDIAN OCEAN TALKS TOOK PLACE
DECEMBER 6-10. TALKS WENT WELL AND WE ARE CONTINUING TO
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NARROW DIFFERENCES.

B. SOVIETS TABLED A DRAFT AGREEMENT SET OUT IN THE
SAME FORMAT AS THE ONE WHICH THE US TABLED IN ROUND TWO.
SOVIET DRAFT, HOWEVER, CONTAINED THEIR MAXIMALIST POSITIONS.
DURING COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS, SOVIETS APPEARED TO SHOW
FLEXIBILITY ON MANY OF THE ISSUES AND DURING THE NEXT ROUND

OF TALKS WE WILL BEGIN WORK ON A JOINT DRAFT TEXT.

C. THERE ARE STILL DIFFERENCES ON THE FORM OF THE AGREEMENT. US HAS SUGGESTED THAT THERE BE SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENT CONTAINING AGREED DESCRIPTIONS OF US AND SOVIET PRESENCE. SOVIETS REPEATED PAST PREFERENCE FOR DETAILED

EXCHANGE OF NUMERICAL DATA, BUT WILL CONSIDER US APPROACH.

D. WE ARE CLOSER TO AGREEMENT ON STRATEGIC SYSTEMS, SOVIETS HAVE DROPPED DEMAND FOR LIMITS ON AIRCRAFT CARRIERS; BOTH AGREE STRATEGIC BOMBERS WILL NOT BE INTRODUCED. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER SOVIETS WILL ACCEPT US LANGUAGE ON SUBMARINES--THIS WILL BECOME CLEAR WHEN WE DISCUSS LANGUAGE OF SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENT.

E. FACILITIES REMAINS COMPLEX ISSUE. BOTH SIDES AGREE TO PROHIBIT ANY NEW CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES FOR USE BY THEIR OWN FORCES. WE DISAGREE ON WHETHER TO PERMIT CONTINUED CONSTRUCTION AT DIEGO GARCIA. SOVIETS HAVE ACCEPTED THAT AGREEMENT SHOULD LIMIT UTILIZATION OF FACILITIES. WE NOW NEED AGREED DEFINITION OF WHAT IS MEANT BY UTILIZATION. SOVIETS WANT FREEDOM TO MOVE THEIR SHIPS, PARTICULARLY THEIR AUXILIARY SUPPORT SHIPS, TO ANY INDIAN OCEAN PORT. WE DO NOT WANT TO PERMIT ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW BERBERAS THROUGHOUT THE INDIAN OCEAN. WE ARE WORKING ON
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LANGUAGE THAT MIGHT MEET BOTH SIDES' CONCERNS.

F. SOVIETS HAVE MOVED SLIGHTLY FROM PAST POSITION ON ALLIES AND ADJACENT AREAS. SOVIET DRAFT TEXT WOULD PERMIT INCREASE IN ONE SIDE'S FORCES IF ALLIES OF OTHER SIDE INCREASE THEIR FORCES. EACH SIDE WOULD ALSO UNDERTAKE NOT TO TAKE ACTIONS IN ADJACENT AREAS THAT WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY ALTER THE SITUATION THERE. US REJECTED BOTH THESE FORMULATIONS, NOTING THAT SOVIETS COULD WITHDRAW FROM AGREEMENT IF THEY FELT THEIR SUPREME INTERESTS WERE THREATENED BY ACTIONS OF OTHERS.

G. BOTH SIDES DEFENDED THEIR PAST POSITIONS ON THE DEFINITION OF THE AREA.

H. THE US STATED ITS PREFERENCE FOR A CLAUSE PERMITTING IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE AGREEMENT IF EITHER PARTY FELT ITS SUPREME INTERESTS WERE THREATENED. THE SOVIETS WANT A PRE-NOTIFICATION PERIOD (PERHAPS THREE MONTHS) AND CLAIM THAT THE US COULD RAPIDLY SURGE FORCES INTO THE REGION AND UPSET THE BALANCE, IF THERE WERE NO PRE-NOTIFICATION PERIOD.

I. THERE ARE ALSO DIFFERENCES AND/OR A NEED FOR MORE
PRECISE LANGUAGE ON SEVERAL OTHER ISSUES, BUT THESE ARE
GENERALLY OF A SECONDARY NATURE WHICH WE THINK CAN BE FAIRLY
EASILY RESOLVED.

J. THE TARGET DATE FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS IS EARLY
FEBRUARY BUT NO DATE AND LOCATION HAVE YET BEEN AGREED.

2. AT THEIR REQUEST, UK, FRG, ITALIAN, AND DUTCH EMBASSY
REPS HAVE MET INDIVIDUALLY WITH STATE/ACDA REPS AND WERE
BRIEFED USING ABOVE TALKING POINTS. DUTCH REP SAID HIS
AMBASSADOR HAD NOTED RECENT US PRESS REPORTS THAT TALKS
HAD "HIT A SNAG." HE WAS TOLD THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. VANCE

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